

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A system of the type including multiple functions relating to production, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), maintenance and automation, configured to provide simultaneous access to data from a plurality of data devices within the system, the data devices including an automation device, an ERP device, and an MES device, the system comprising:

a central access device having interface connections to receive data from each of the data devices, wherein the central access device comprises mechanisms for simultaneously providing a uniform, central access to multiple ones of the plurality of data sources and simultaneous uniform visualization of the data in the data received from the multiple ones of the data sources, the central access device including a restricted access administration device providing role-based access for each of multiple users so that the users are each user is enabled to access data from predetermined devices without being able to access data of other devices, the central access device further including:

a polling device configurable by users in order to cyclically monitor acquire data based on a production criterion configurable by a user ~~eyelessly~~ from the various data sources by evaluating ~~and to evaluate~~ the data in such a way that upon attainment of ~~thea~~ criterion, ~~configurable by users~~ a corresponding message is automatically generated indicating to the user that the criterion has been met and wherein, when the criterion is met, data relevant to the criterion are made available in an automated manner to the user when the user is next logged in to the system; and

a visualization device having a plurality of portal modules enabling data fetched from different devices to be viewed simultaneously in a visualization window wherein data is visualized uniformly.

10-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the central access device includes a data acquisition device ~~for~~ configured to access the plurality of data devices and exchange information with each, including assembling data from the plurality of data devices in accord with the role-based access of each user.

18-22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the data acquisition device accesses the various data devices in a manner controlled by the restricted access administration device, acquires data therefrom and provides this data for display in the visualization window.

24. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the data acquisition device accesses the various data sources in a manner controlled by the access administration device and acquires data from the data sources, wherein the data acquisition device makes the data available to the visualization device.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)